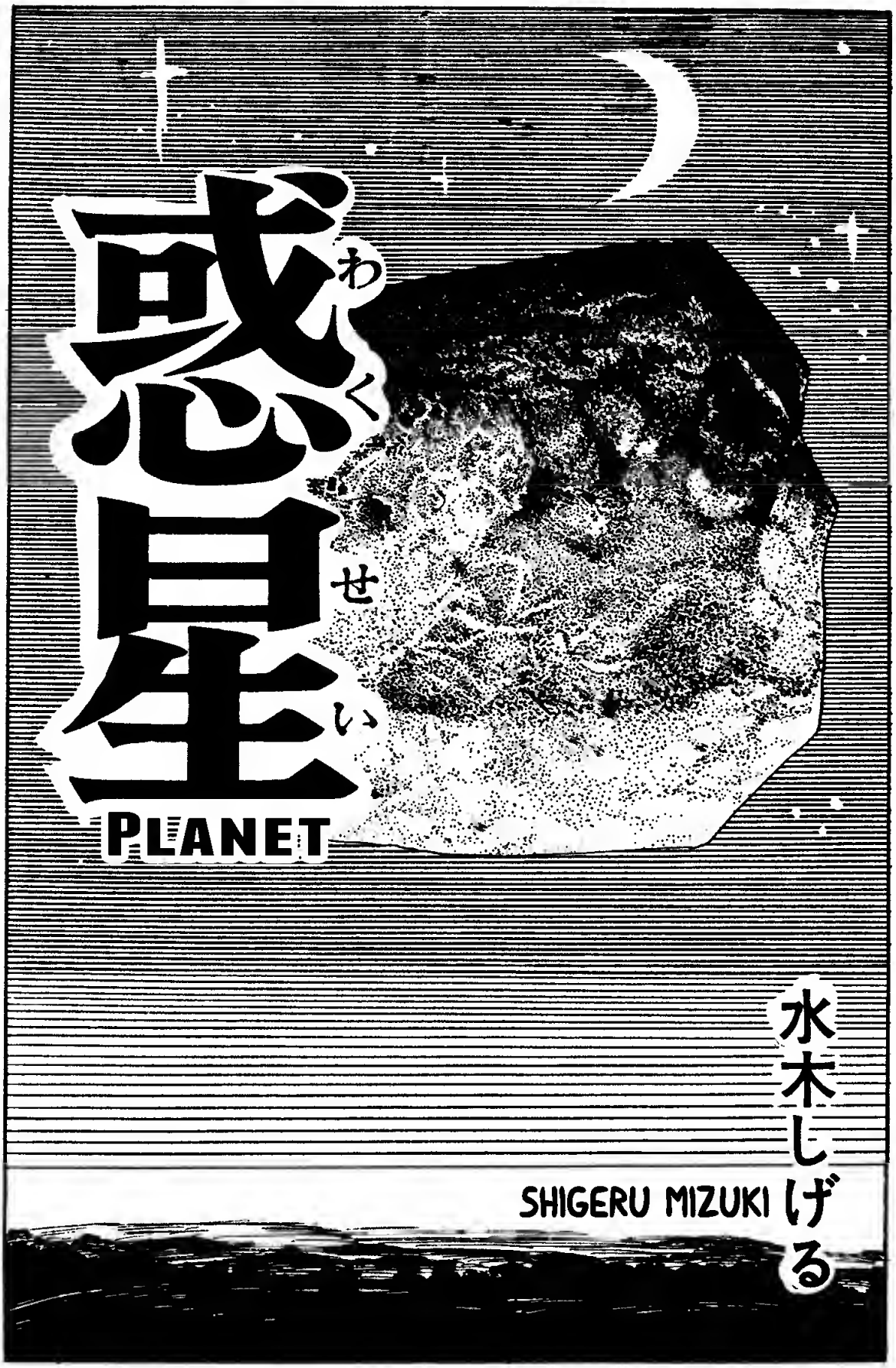
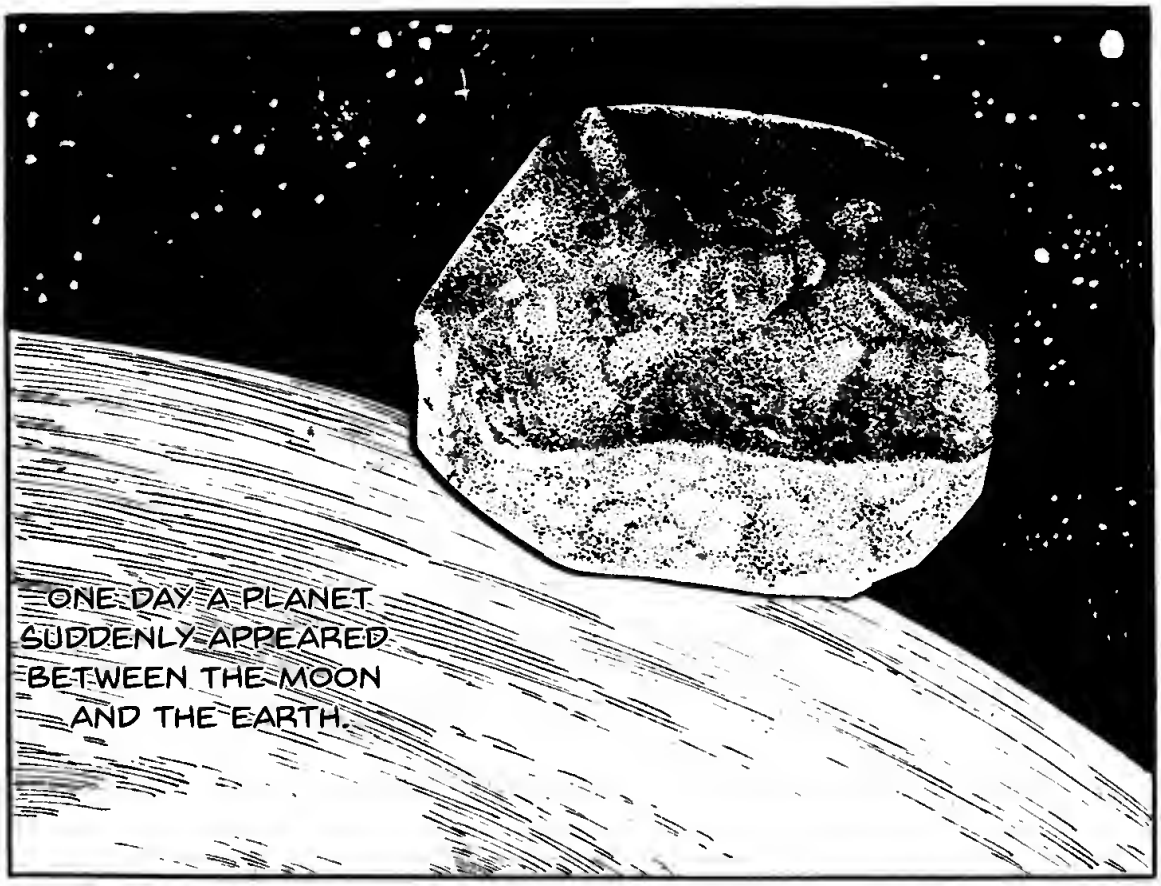
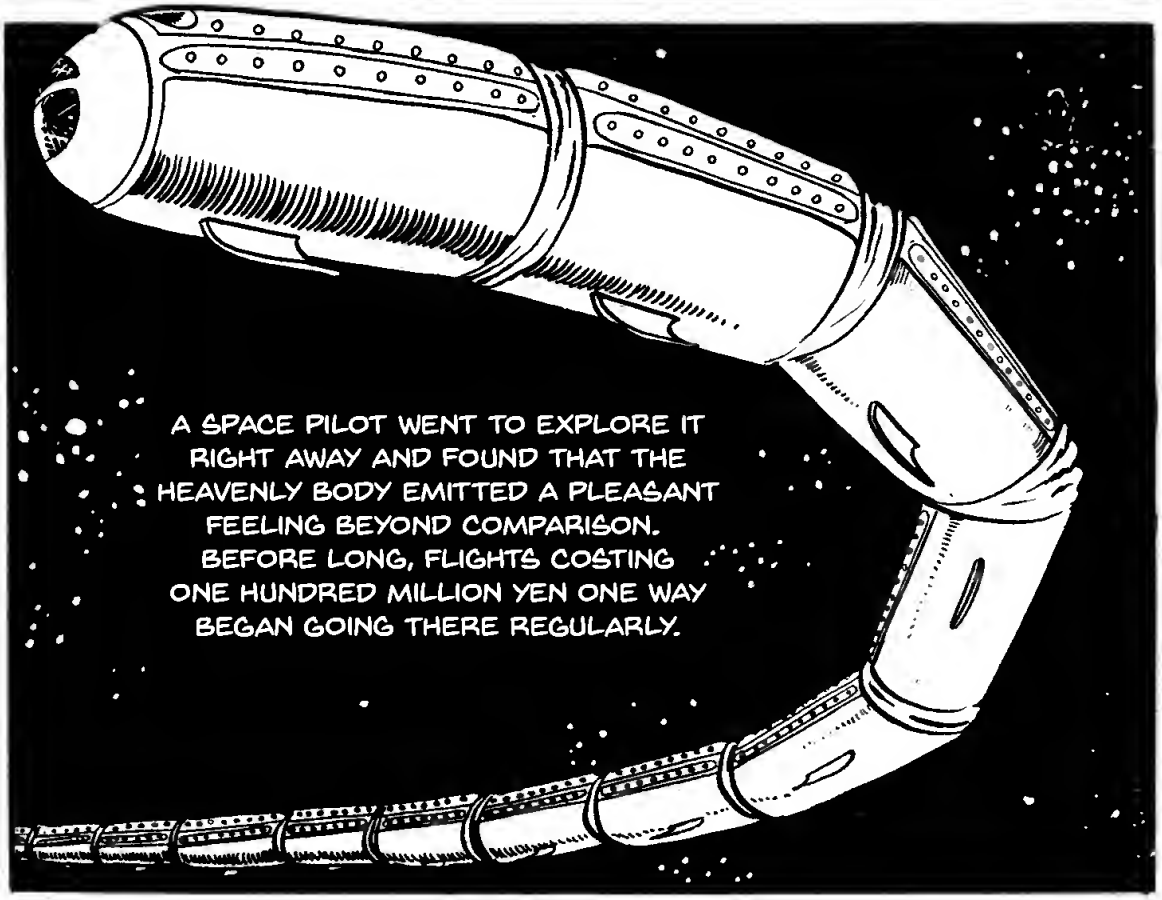
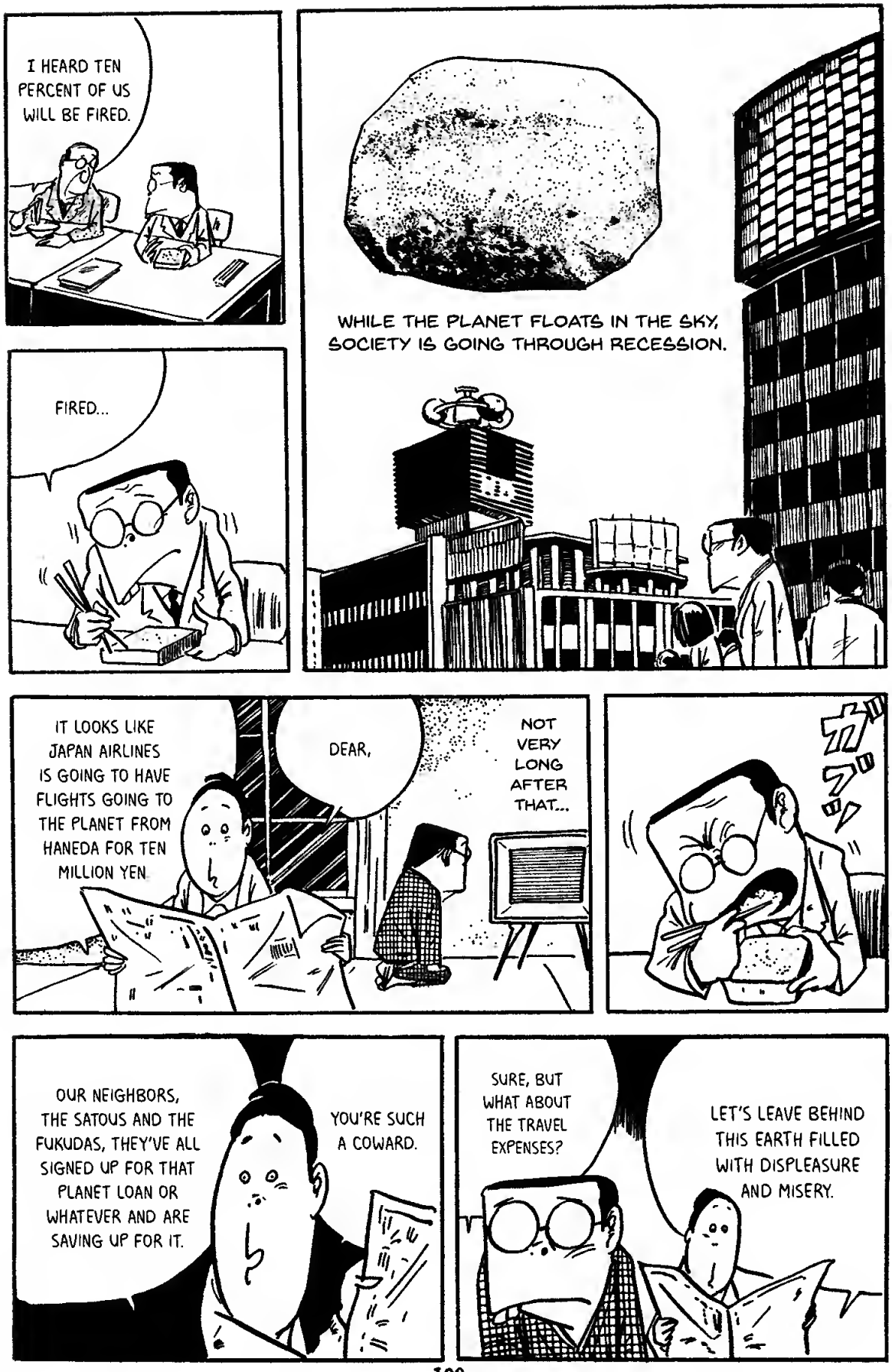

惑星
わく せい
PLANET
水木しげる
SHIGERU MIZUKI


ONE DAY A PLANET
SUDDENLY APPEARED
BETWEEN THE MOON
AND THE EARTH.

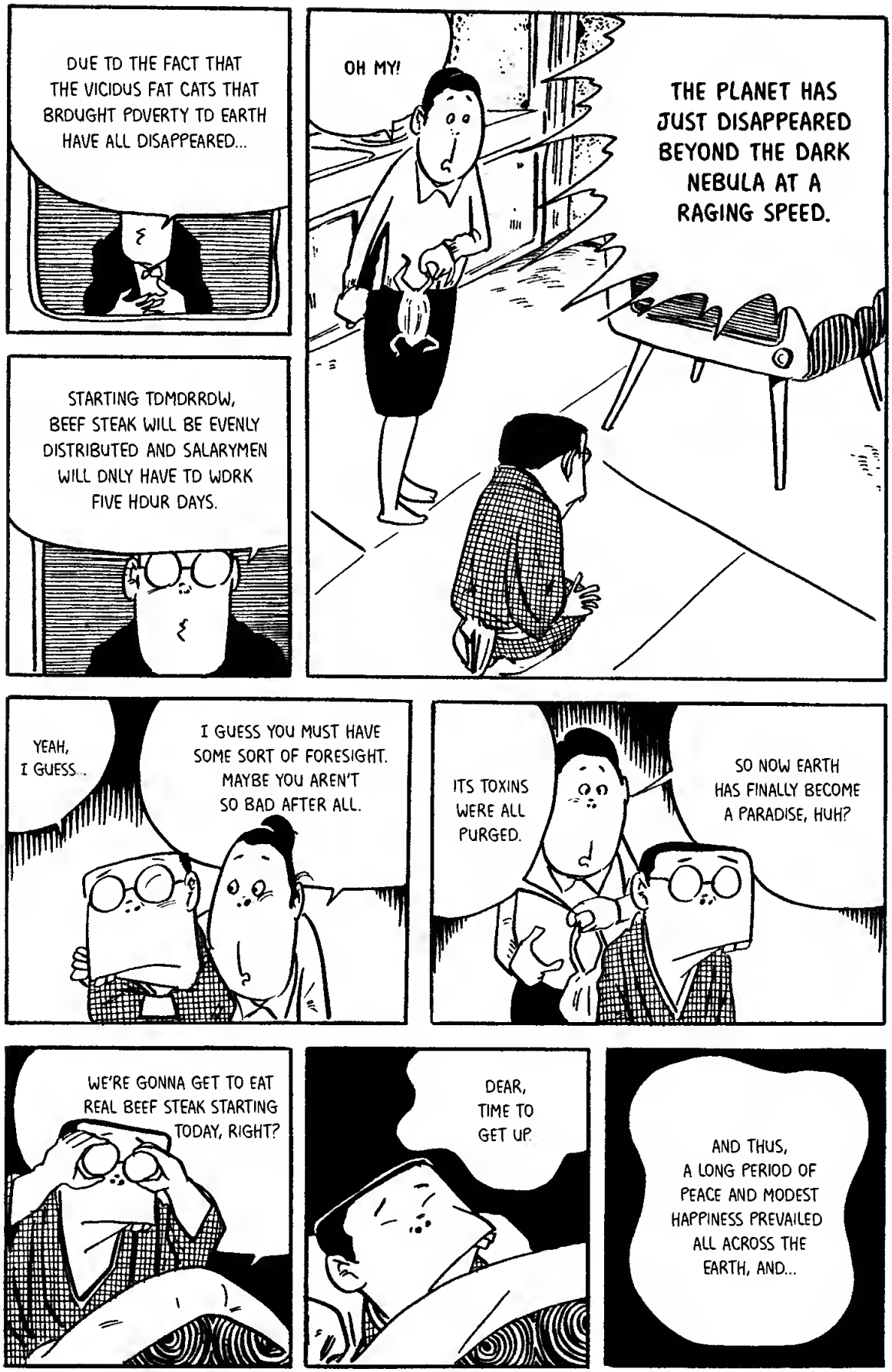

A SPACE PILOT WENT TO EXPLORE IT
RIGHT AWAY AND FOUND THAT THE
HEAVENLY BODY EMITTED A PLEASANT
FEELING BEYOND COMPARISON.
BEFORE LONG, FLIGHTS COSTING
ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN ONE WAY
BEGAN GOING THERE REGULARLY.

SETTLED DOWN?
MORE LIKE THEY'VE BEEN SO ENTRANCED BY THE PLACE THAT THEY FORGOT ABOUT GOING HOME, JUST LIKE URASHIMA TAROU
APPARENTLY, ABOUT THREE THOUSAND RICH AMERICANS HAVE SETTLED DOWN THERE.
THE PALACE OF THE DRAGON KING, PARADISE, IT'S ALL ONLY FOR MONEYBAGS.
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S A MODERN PALACE OF THE DRAGON KING... NO WAIT, THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "PARADISE."
WHAT ABOUT MY LUNCH?
YOU BUM!
DON'T BE DELUDED. YOU JUST AREN'T SMART ENOUGH,
FOR US PENNILESS SALARY-MEN, IT'S OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.
THE NEXT TIME MY PAYCHECK COMES, GO BUY A BUNCH OF PICKLED PLUMS OR SOMETHING.
SOME SOY SAUCE WILL HAVE TO DO THEN.
THERE ARE NO MORE.
WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! YOU ATE ALL OF YOUR SIDES.


I HEARD TEN PERCENT OF US WILL BE FIRED.
FIRED...
WHILE THE PLANET FLOATS IN THE SKY, SOCIETY IS GOING THROUGH RECESSION.
IT LOOKS LIKE JAPAN AIRLINES IS GOING TO HAVE FLIGHTS GOING TO THE PLANET FROM HANEDA FOR TEN MILLION YEN
DEAR,
NOT VERY LONG AFTER THAT...
ガブッ
OUR NEIGHBORS, THE SATOUS AND THE FUKUDAS, THEY'VE ALL SIGNED UP FOR THAT PLANET LOAN OR WHATEVER AND ARE SAVING UP FOR IT.
YOU'RE SUCH A COWARD.
SURE, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TRAVEL EXPENSES?
LET'S LEAVE BEHIND THIS EARTH FILLED WITH DISPLEASURE AND MISERY.

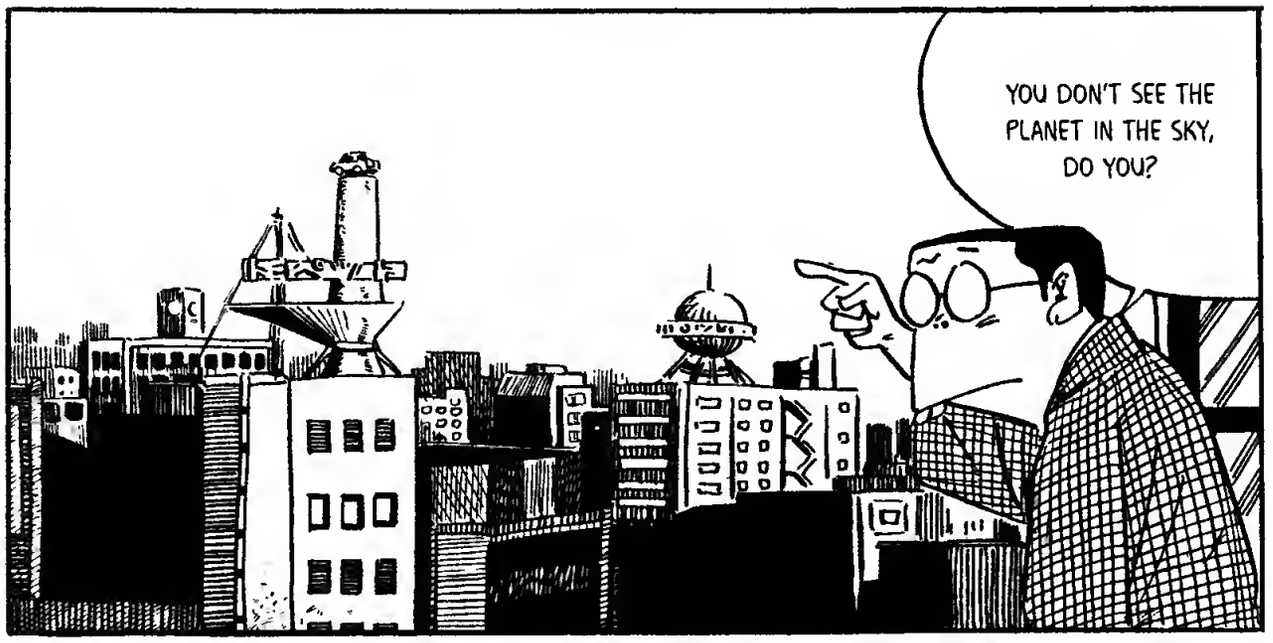
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE AMBITION TO GET OFF THIS PLANET, SO...
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
YOU'RE HOPELESS
THAT'S BECAUSE BOTH OF THEM ARE FROM GOOD FAMILIES AND HAVE CONNECTIONS.
THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS
FROM TOMORROW, YOUR SIDE DISHES FOR LUNCH WILL CONSIST OF SOY PULP ONLY.
HAHAHAHAHA!
LET'S GO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
HIS OLD MAN'S A REAL FAT CAT, AFTER ALL.
HEY, LOOKS LIKE CHIEF MATSUSHITA JUST GOT BACK FROM HIS TRIP THERE.
EVEN BETTER THAN THAT.
PALACE OF THE DRAGON KING...?
SO IT REALLY IS LIKE THE PALACE OF THE DRAGON KING...
WHAT CAN I SAY? GREAT WOULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT!

I'VE DECIDED TO MOVE THERE WITH MY WHOLE FAMILY.
AT ANY RATE, ALL IT TAKES IS ONE TRIP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A STRONG WILL, THEN YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO COME BACK.
THE SATOUS AND THE FUKUDAS LEFT THIS MORNING!
DEAR!
MONEYBAGS GOT IT EASY.
FORGET THAT, WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
RIGHT NOW, EARTH IS ONLY FOR BROKE PEOPLE
NOT AT ALL. EVEN A LOT OF MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE ARE MIGRATING THESE DAYS.
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH THOSE RICH FOLK.
SPECIAL NEWS REPORT!
THE HECK, FROG STEAK!?
THEY HAD SOME CHEAP FROG MEAT FOR SALE
WHAT!? STEAK?
WE'RE HAVING STEAK TOOAY.


DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE VICIOUS FAT CATS THAT BROUGHT POVERTY TO EARTH HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED...
OH MY!
THE PLANET HAS JUST DISAPPEARED BEYOND THE DARK NEBULA AT A RAGING SPEED.
STARTING TOMORROW, BEEF STEAK WILL BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED AND SALARYMEN WILL ONLY HAVE TO WORK FIVE HOUR DAYS.
YEAH, I GUESS...
I GUESS YOU MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF FORESIGHT. MAYBE YOU AREN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.
ITS TOXINS WERE ALL PURGED.
SO NOW EARTH HAS FINALLY BECOME A PARADISE, HUH?
WE'RE GONNA GET TO EAT REAL BEEF STEAK STARTING TODAY, RIGHT?
DEAR, TIME TO GET UP.
AND THUS, A LONG PERIOD OF PEACE AND MODEST HAPPINESS PREVAILED ALL ACROSS THE EARTH, AND...

WELL, LOOK!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DON'T SEE THE PLANET IN THE SKY, DO YOU?
HOW ABOUT YOU GO WASH YOUR FACE AND WAKE UP ALREADY?
THERE WAS... NOTHING THERE?
THERE WAS NOTHING THERE TO BEGIN WITH.
ガガガ
HUH, ELIZABETH TAYLOR GOT DIVORCED AGAIN.
WAS THAT ALL A DREAM?

完 END



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